

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

FEA-02 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5068

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USUN NEW YORK 2774

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 IAEA VIENNA 8110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, PARM, IAEA, IN, PK

SUBJECT: IAEA 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE - PAKISTAN

STATEMENT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PORTION OF STATEMENT TO IAEA
GENERAL CONFERENCE PLENARY DURING GENERAL DEBATE
BY MUNIR A. KHAN, CHAIRMAN PAEC AND PAKISTANI
DELEGATE TO GC, DEALING WITH INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION
AND SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION ON SEPTEMBER 17,
1974:

BEGIN QTE:

SINCE WE MET LAST, A DEVELOPMENT OF FAR
REACHING CONSEQUENCES FOR THE PEACE AND SECURITY
OF THE WORLD AND THE WORK OF THE AGENCY HAS OCCURRED
WHICH IS A MATTER OF DEEP CONCERN TO ALL MEMBER STATES.

ON MAY 18, INDIA EXPLODED AN UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR DEVICE
FOR SO-CALLED PEACEFUL PURPOSES CLOSE TO OUR BORDER
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WITH THE RADIOACTIVE DEBRIS CROSSING THE INTERATIONAL

FRONTIERS. THIS CAME AS A PAINFUL SHOCK NOT ONLY TO ITS NEIGHBOURS BUT MANY OTHER PEACE-LOVING COUNTRIES. INDIA'S CLAIM THAT IT WAS A PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION LACKS CREDIBILITY BECAUSE THERE IS HARDLY ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TECHNOLOGY OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE OF THIS TYPE AND A NUCLEAR WEAPON. INDIA'S STEP IS THE CULMINATION OF LONG YEARS OF CAREFUL AND DELIBERATE PREPARATION. PAKISTAN HAS BEEN WARNING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AT THIS AND OTHER FORUMS, OF ITS GRAVE APPREHENSIONS REGARDING INDIA'S THINLY DISGUISED PLANS TO EXPLODE A

NUCLEAR DEVICE UNDERGROUND WHICH HAD BECOME AN OPEN SECRET. UNFORTUNATELY THESE WARNINGS WENT UNHEEDED AND NO EFFECTIVE MEASURES WERE TAKEN TO DISSUADE INDIA FROM TAKING THIS FATEFUL STEP.

WE BELIEVE THAT THIS ACTION BY INDIA CONSTITUTES A GREAT BLOW, PERHAPS A FATAL ONE, TO ALL INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS FOR CONTAINING AND PREVENTING FURTHER THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IT APPEARS THAT THE RESTRAINT AND THE DELICATE BALANCE OF POWER WHICH HAD BEEN MAINTAINED OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS HAS BEEN SHATTERED AND, AS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, "ABARRIER TO PROLIFERATION HAS BEEN BREACHED." THIS COULD NOW LEAD TO A RACE AMONG A NEW GROUP OF NATIONS TO ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THEREBY INCREASE THE RISKS OF A NUCLEAR WAR. IF THIS RACE SPREADS TO THE POOR COUNTRIES ALSO THEN IT COULD HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES ON THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE UNDERLYING CONCEPT BEHIND NPT HAS SUFFERED A SETBACK AND IT WOULD NOW BE DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE MORE COUNTRIES TO COME WITHIN THE FOLD OF THIS TREATY. THIS IS BOUND TO HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSION ON THE REVIEW CONFERENCE ON THE OPERATION OF THE NPT SCHEDULED FOR MAY 1975 AND RAISES QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROJECTED EXPANSION OF NPT RELATED SAFEGUARD ACTIVITIES OF THE AGENCY.

WE BELIEVE THAT THIS SHORTSIGHTED AND SELFISH STEP BY INDIA HAS RENDERED A GREAT DISERVICE TO ALL MANKIND AND PARTICULARLY TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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WORLD WHICH DESPERATELY NEED NUCLEAR POWER TO MEET THEIR ELECTRIC POWER REQUIREMENTS IN THE MIDST OF AN ENERGY CRISIS. IT MIGHT GIVE THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES AN EXCUSE FOR MAKING IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR SUCH COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN FREELY AND EASILY THE NECESSARY PLANTS AND KNOW-HOW FOR THEIR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMMES.

WE IN THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES MUST ACQUIRE MODERN

TECHNOLOGY - TECHNOLOGY FOR OUR ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND NOT FOR MUTUAL DESTRUCTION. WE MUST FIRST ADDRESS OURSELVES TO THE CRYING NEEDS OF OUR HUNGRY, POOR AND ILLITERATE MASSES AND POSTPONE THE PURSUIT OF ILLUSIONARY PRESTIGE AND POWER FOR LATER.

PROPOSAL FOR NUCLEAR FREE-ZONE.

WE ARE AT A CRUCIAL MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND AND WE MUST ACT WITH ALL THE WISDOM, RESTRAINT AND SPEED AT OUR COMMAND. AS THE DIRECTOR GENERAL HAS SAID THERE "IS NO TIME TO LOSE." WE BELIEVE THAT AS A FIRST STEP INDIA SHOULD STOP ALL FURTHER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS. IF THERE ARE ANY JUSTIFIED ECONOMIC REASONS TO CARRY THEM OUT THEN THEY SHOULD BE PLANNED AND CONDUCTED ONLY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE IAEA. INDIA SHOULD GIVE BINDING INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKINGS THAT IT WILL NOT MANUFACTURE OR ACQUIRE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

PAKISTAN IS PREPARED TO JOIN INDIA TOGETHER WITH OTHER STATES CONCERNED IN DECLARING THE ENTIRE SOUTH ASIAN SUBCONTINENT AS A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE. THIS CONCEPT IS ALREADY ENSHRINED IN THE TREATY OF TLAZELOLCO FOR LATIN AMERICA AND ENJOYS THE SUPPORT OF MANY PEACE-LOVING NATIONS OF THE WORLD. THE PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN, MR. ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO, NOW THE PRIME MINISTER, HAD IN FACT MADE THIS PROPOSAL WHILE INAUGURATING THE KARACHI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ON NOVEMBER 28, 1972, WHEN HE SAID:

"PAKISTAN BELIEVES IN USING ATOMIC ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

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PROGRESS. WE HAVE PLACED OUR NUCLEAR FACILITIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS OF THE IAEA. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE OTHER COUNTRIES IN OUR REGION DO THE SAME. THE MOST MENACING PROBLEM IN THE SUB-CONTINENT OF SOUTH ASIA IS THAT OF POVERTY AND MISERY OF ITS PEOPLE. FOR OUR PEOPLE ATOMIC ENERGY SHOULD BECOME A SYMBOL OF HOPE RATHER THAN FEAR. FOR THIS REASON WE WOULD WELCOME IF THE ENTIRE SUB-CONTINENT, BY THE AGREEMENT OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED, COULD BE DECLARED AS A NUCLEAR FREE-ZONE AND THE INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BANNED."

THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN IS NOW FORMALLY SUBMITTING THE SAME PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

AS FAR AS PAKISTAN IS CONCERNED, WE ARE SIGNATORIES TO THE PARTIAL TEST BAN TREATY OF 1963 AND JOINED OTHER 94 NATIONS IN VOTING FOR THE NPT AT THE UN IN 1968. ALL OUR FACILITIES ARE UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS. OUR PROGRAMME IS PEACEFUL AND WE ARE DETERMINED TO KEEP IT UNCLASSIFIED

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SO IN SPTE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED ACROSS THE BORDER.

RESPONSIBLILITIES OF NPT SPONSORS

OUR DELEGATION FEELS THAT A GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY NOW DEVOLVES UPON THE SPONSORS OF THE NPT. IF THEY ACQUIESCE IN THE PRESENT POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION AND OPEN THE DOOR TO PROLIFERATION FOR ONE COUNTRY, THEN OTHERS ARE BOUND TO FOLLOW, SOONER OR LATER. THE NPT HAS BEEN ERODED BY THE EVENT IN MAY AND BY THEIR APPARENT HESITATION TO SPEAK UP AND ACT IN A FORTHRIGHT AND UNEQUIVOCAL MANNER. THIS ATTITUDE COULD RAISE SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THEIR DETERMINATION TO UPHOLD THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES OF THIS TREATY AND ENFORCE IT EFFECTIVELY. AS AN INDICATION OF THEIR SINCERITY OF PURPOSE, THEY SHOULD LEND THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO ALL EFFORTS FOR ESTABLISHING NUCLEAR FREE-ZONES IN SENSITIVE REGIONS

OF THE WORLD. TO ALLAY THE GENUINE FEARS AND APPREHENSIONS OF THE NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRIES, THEY SHOULD EXTEND FIRM SECURITY GUARANTEES AGAINST NUCLEAR THREAT OR BLACKMAIL FROM ANY QUARTER. FURTHER THE SUPER POWERS SHOULD THEMSELVES SET A GOOD EXAMPLE BY MOVING TOWARDS NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT ENVISAGED IN ARTICLE VI OF THE NPT. THEY SHOULD STOP ALL UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS, AND CONDUCT ANY PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION ONLY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE IAEA.

I HAVE DEALT WITH THIS SUBJECT AT SOME LENGTH BECAUSE IF IMMEDIATE AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES ARE NOT TAKEN NOW TO ARREST THE DANGEROUS TREND TOWARDS PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, IT WOULD THREATEN WORLD SECURITY AND PEACE AND COULD NEGATE THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE AGENCY TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND UNDERMINE FAITH IN ITS SYSTEM OF SAFEGUARDS.

END QTE.TAPE

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